

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 AID-20 HEW-08 SR-02

ORM-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W
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R 201540Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0061

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CY, SEDU

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF WAR ON GREEK CYPRIOT EDUCATION IN CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY: WITH ONE-THIRD OF GREEK CYPRIOT SCHOOLS IN TURKISH HELD AREAS OF CYPRUS, AND ANOTHER THIRD BEING OCCUPIED BY REFUGEES, PROSPECTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN GREEK CYPRIOT SECTOR ARE DISMAL FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WITH EDUCATION TRADITIONALLY HIGH ON GREEK-CYPRIOT VALUE LIST, DISRUPTION/DISLOCATION WILL HAVE DEEP ADVERSE IMPACT ON SOCIETY. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING SEPTEMBER 17 CALL ON MINED ANDREAS MIKELLIDES BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY PAO AND APAO, MINISTRY OFFICIALS PROVIDED FOLLOWING STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF DISASTER FACING GREEK CYPRIOT EDUCATORS (FIGURES COMPILED AS OF AUGUST 24):

A) 35 PERCENT (191 OF 548) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE NOW IN OR NEAR TURKISH-HELD AREAS

B) 40 PERCENT (22 OF 49) SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE UNUSABLE FOR SAME REASON

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C) 38 PERCENT (3 OF 8) TECHNICAL SCHOOLS ARE UNAVAILABLE
BECAUSE OF DAMAGE OR LOCATION.

3. OF THOSE USABLE FACILITIES IN GREEK AREAS, ANOTHER THIRD
ARE OCCUPIED BY REFUGEES. ADDITIONALLY, BOMBING OF EDMIN
CENTRAL WAREHOUSE DESTROYED ALMOST ENTIRE YEAR'S STOCK OF
ELEMENTARY TEXT BOOKS AND SUPPLIES. LARGE BUT UNKNOWN NUMBER
OF TEACHERS ARE BEING HELD EITHER AS OFFICIAL POWS OR CIVILIAN
DETAINEES IN TURKISH AREAS. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE
PRECISE NUMERICAL IMPACT ON STUDENT POPULATION, AN ESTIMATED
42 PERCENT OF GREEK-CYPRIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (25,000
OUT OF 62,000) HAVE BEEN DISLOCATED. FIGURE FOR SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IS PUT AT 44 PERCENT.

4. ON EMBOFF'S VISIT SEPT 18 TO LARNACA AREA, WHERE REFUGEE
PRESSURE IS WORST, EFFECTS OF WAR ON SCHOOL SYSTEM DRAMATICALLY
EVIDENT. SCHOOL BUILDINGS HOUSE HEADQUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS ATTEMPTING TO COPE WITH PROBLEM, AS WELL AS FIRST AID
STATIONS, AND INFORMATION OFFICES. KITCHENS OF SCHOOLS THUS
OCCUPIED NOW FEED REFUGEES. 5,000 REFUGEES ACTUALLY RESIDENT
IN LARNACA'S 9 ELEMENTARY AND 3 HIGH SCHOOLS, AND SIMILAR
SITUATION OBTAINS IN OTHER VILLAGES NEARBY AND IN BRITISH
SBA. GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH DILEMMA OF PROVIDING EDUCATION
FOR NORMAL POPULATION PLUS SUDDEN INFLUX OF REFUGEE CHILDREN.
THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT EVEN WERE ALL SCHOOL FACILITIES AVAILABLE.
WITH MOST SCHOOLS PRESSED INTO EMERGENCY HOUSING, HARD DECISIONS
WILL HAVE TO BE MADE ON WHO-- REFUGEE CHILDREN OR LARNACA
CHILDREN-- GET TO USE SCARCE FACILITIES.

5. DESPITE ENORMITY OF PROBLEMS SOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
HAVE OPENED AND AVAILABLE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BEGIN OPENING
SEPT. 30. CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NICOSI03224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740265-0350
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740928/aaaaaxdb.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPACT OF WAR ON GREEK CYPRIOT EDUCATION IN CYPRUS
TAGS: SEDU, CY, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005